

ROAD MAP TO THE EIGHT REQUIRED ELEMENTS

This section is provided for the National Acceptance Advisory Team (NAAT) which is evaluating this document to determine how well North Dakota's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy process meets the eight Congressionally required elements. The NAAT is chaired by the USFWS Assistant Director for Migratory Birds and State Programs and includes seven USFWS assistant regional directors (ARD) for Migratory Birds and State Programs, and the five state presidents of the regional associations of fish and wildlife agencies. The NAAT will ultimately determine if all eight required elements are fulfilled, and will provide a recommendation to the director of the USFWS. The director then issues the final determination for approval or disapproval of North Dakota's CWCS.

Please refer to the following page numbers in order to examine how each required element was addressed in the development of the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy.

Element 1: Information on the distribution and abundance of species of wildlife, including low and declining populations as the state deems appropriate, that are indicative of the diversity and health of the state's wildlife:

NAAT Guidance	Section	Page #	Table Figure	Page #	Appendix	Page #
A. The Strategy indicates sources of information (e.g., literature, data bases, agencies, individuals) on wildlife abundance and distribution consulted during the planning process.	3.5 3.5.a	32-33 33-34	Tables 2-5	28-30	A	114-409
B. The Strategy includes information about both abundance and distribution for species in all major groups to the extent that data are available. There are plans for acquiring information about species for which adequate abundance and/or distribution information is unavailable.	4.4.b 5	41 44-87			A	114-409
C. The Strategy identifies low and declining populations to the extent data are available.	3	22-26	Tables 1-4	27-30	A	114-409
D. All major groups of wildlife have been considered or an explanation is provided as to why they were not (e.g., including reference to implemented marine fisheries management plans). The State may indicate whether these groups are to be included in a future Strategy revision.	3.2.a 3.2.a.i	22-23 23				
E. The Strategy describes the process used to select the species in greatest need of conservation. The quantity of information in the Strategy is determined by the state with input from its partners, based on what is available to the state.	3 3.3	22-26 23-25	Tables 1-4	27-30		

Element 2: Descriptions of locations and relative condition of key habitats and community types essential to conservation of species identified in (1):

NAAT Guidance	Section	Page #	Table Figure	Page #	Appendix	Page #
A. The Strategy provides a reasonable explanation for the level of detail provided; if insufficient, the Strategy identifies the types of future actions that will be taken to obtain the information.	4.1-4.3	35-39			A	114-409
B. Key habitats and their relative conditions are described in enough detail such that the State can determine where (i.e., in which regions, watersheds, or landscapes within the State) and what conservation actions need to take place.	5	44-87			A B C	114-409 410-420 421-423

Element 3: Descriptions of problems which may adversely affect species identified in (1) or their habitats, and priority research and survey efforts needed to identify factors which may assist in restoration and improved conservation of these species and habitats:

NAAT Guidance	Section	Page #	Table Figure	Page #	Appendix	Page #
A. The Strategy indicates sources of information (e.g., literature, databases, agencies, or individuals) used to determine the problems or threats.	4.4 8.1	40 101			A	114-409
B. The threats/problems are described in sufficient detail to develop focused conservation actions (for example, “increased highway mortalities” or “acid mine drainage” rather than generic descriptions such as “development” or “poor water quality”).	5	44-87			A	114-409
C. The Strategy considers threats/problems, regardless of their origins (local, state, regional, national and international), where relevant to the state’s species and habitats.	4.4 5	40-43 45-87			A	114-409
D. If available information is insufficient to describe threats/problems, research and survey efforts are identified to obtain needed information.	4.4.a	40			A	114-409
E. The priority research and survey needs, and resulting products, are described sufficiently to allow for the development of research and survey projects after the Strategy is approved.	4.4.a 4.4.b 5	40 41 44-87			A	114-409

Element 4: Descriptions of conservation actions determined to be necessary to conserve the identified species and habitats and priorities for implementing such actions:

NAAT Guidance	Section	Page #	Table Figure	Page #	Appendix	Page #
A. The Strategy identifies how conservation actions address identified threats to species of greatest conservation need and their habitats.	5	44-87			A E	114-409 430-445

B. The Strategy describes conservation actions sufficiently to guide implementation of those actions through the development and execution of specific projects and programs.	5	44-87			A E	114-409 430-445
C. The Strategy links conservation actions to objectives and indicators that will facilitate monitoring and performance measurement of those conservation actions (outlined in Element #5).	5 6.2	44-87 89-91			A E	114-409 430-445
D. The Strategy describes conservation actions (where relevant to the state's species and habitats) that could be addressed by federal agencies or regional, national or international partners and shared with other states.	5	44-87			A	114-409
E. If available information is insufficient to describe needed conservation actions, the Strategy identifies research or survey needs for obtaining information to develop specific conservation actions.	4.4.a 5	41-42 44-87			A	114-409
F. The Strategy identifies the relative priority of conservation actions.	5.0	45-46				

Element 5: Proposed plans for monitoring species identified in (1) and their habitats, for monitoring the effectiveness of the conservation actions proposed in (4), and for adapting these conservation actions to respond appropriately to new information or changing conditions:

NAAT Guidance	Section	Page #	Table Figure	Page #	Appendix	Page #
A. The Strategy describes plans for monitoring species identified in Element #1, and their habitats.	6 6.3.a 6.3.b	88-99 91-94 95-97			A	114-409
B. The Strategy describes how the outcomes of the conservation actions will be monitored.	6 6.4	88-99 98				
C. If monitoring is not identified for a species or species group, the Strategy explains why it is not appropriate, necessary or possible.	6	88-99				
D. Monitoring is to be accomplished at one of several levels including individual species, guilds, or natural communities.	6 6.3.a 6.3.b	88-99 91-94 95-97				
E. Monitoring utilizes or builds on existing monitoring and survey systems or explains how information will be obtained to determine the effectiveness of conservation actions.	6 6.3 6.4	88-99 91-97 98				
F. Monitoring considers the appropriate geographic scale to evaluate the status of species or species groups and the effectiveness of conservation actions.	6 6.2 6.3	88-99 89-91 91-97				
G. The Strategy is adaptive in that it allows for evaluating conservation actions and implementing new actions accordingly.	6 6.2 6.4 7.1	88-99 89-91 98 100				

Element 6: Descriptions of procedures to review the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy at intervals not to exceed 10 years:

NAAT Guidance	Section	Page #	Table Figure	Page #	Appendix	Page #
A. The state describes the process that will be used to review the Strategy within the next ten years.	7	100				

Element 7: Plans for coordinating, to the extent feasible, the development, implementation, review, and revision of the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy with Federal, State, and local agencies and Indian tribes that manage significant land and water areas within the state or administer programs that significantly affect the conservation of identified species and habitats:

NAAT Guidance	Section	Page #	Table Figure	Page #	Appendix	Page #
A. The state describes the extent of its coordination with and efforts to involve federal, state and local agencies, and Indian tribes in the development of its Strategy.	8	101-106				
B. The state describes its continued coordination with these agencies and tribes in the implementation, review and revision of its Strategy.	8.2	106				

Element 8: Provisions to ensure public participation in the development, revision, and implementation of projects and programs. Congress has affirmed that broad public participation is an essential element of this process:

NAAT Guidance	Section	Page #	Table Figure	Page #	Appendix	Page #
A. The state describes the extent of its efforts to involve the public in the development of its Strategy.	9	107-112				
B. The state describes its continued public involvement in the implementation and revision of its Strategy.	7 9.2.a	100 107				